



CALPEEK

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16TH AD SPECIAL: HARRIS WINS DEMO NOMINATION, BUT FACES MAR. 30TH RUNOFF WITH GREEN PARTY.

Editor's note: Former Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris(D) won what in the end turned out to be a somewhat rather nasty special primary election Feb. 2nd over chief rival Frank Russo, a prominent attorney and former chair of the Alameda Co. Demo Party. Here's our report & analysis...

...The turnout was about 19.5% and Harris won the Demo nomination with **48.75%**. Russo got **36.41%**, while Green Party candidate Audie E. Bock received **8.72%**. A third Demo candidate, Enrique Palacios, got **6.11%**. There was no GOP candidate, thus Harris will face Bock in a Mar. 30th runoff. FYI: at one point Harris was ahead by more than 55%, but in the early count the race was nearly dead even. In other words, Russo's team did a good job on AV ballots. But in the end, it was the better and bigger GOTV effort for Harris, especially in the key Black precincts which spelled the difference...

...It was a big win for the Demo Party establishment. In fact, when it became apparent early on that Harris had most all the key support (S.F. Mayor Willie Brown, former Congressman Ron Dellums, U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee, Alameda Co. Sup. Keith Carson, State Sen. Don Perata, BOE member Johan Klehs, U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein & Barbara Boxer, and even Assembly Speaker Antonio Villariagosa), at that point, some **Cal-peek** sources suggest, Russo should have withdrawn...

...However, there is another spin - which is that Russo's key supporters, the Consumer & Applicant attorneys, should have given even more \$\$\$ to Russo, thus sending a message to the Assembly Demos not to forget their key allies in the upcoming debate over renewing the medical malpractice agreement with the MDs...

...A big win for Harris lead consultant Richie Ross; John Whitehurst on the AV program; and to IE consultants McNally Temple & Assoc. (for CCPOA) and Gale Kaufman (CREPAC - realtors)...

...FYI: Another big winner: the Calif. Demo Party. The CDP spent upwards of \$100,000 in a GOTV drive for Harris, which included a give-away of a free chicken dinner, plus a GOTV letter from Pres. Bill Clinton. Big question: The Alameda Co. Demo Party endorsed Harris on a 28-0 vote, which meant automatic CDP backing. Why didn't Russo's team try to block the endorsement, particularly since Russo used to be the Alameda Co. Demo Party chair? Stay tuned...

CALIF. GOP CIVIL WAR CONTINUES AS INSURGENTS FORM SLATE TO CHALLENGE PARTY'S CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP.

Editor's note: Here's another update about the ongoing *uncivil war* which is threatening to break apart the Calif. Republican Party. The key issue is once again abortion. The CRP will conduct its Sacto convention Feb. 26-28 -- and that's where this drama will unfold...

...The current CRP leadership, under the chairmanship of Michael Schroeder, is not taking this insurgent GOP challenge lightly. The battlelines have been drawn and sources say Schroeder & Co. may even bar some of the new CRP delegates --- citing the fact that some were appointed by GOP nominees who were elected via an open primary. In other words, the insurgents and their supporters may be in for a credentials fight unless some sort of deal is worked out. Sources say the insurgents could stage a *walkout*, which probably wouldn't upset the current CRP leadership, but might cause problems if key Calif. GOP officials go to RNC Chair Jim Nicholson and *demand* that he settle the dispute...

...As was mentioned last week, a key factor which

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touched off this battle was an interview given by current CRP Vice Chair John McGraw to the *San Francisco Faith* – a Catholic publication. In the interview McGraw said the most important issue “by far is the abortion issue. I don’t care what anybody says.” McGraw is very much opposed to abortion and is in line to become CRP chairman. To see the article, go to the internet at www.rthoughtsrfree.org/tocsin/tocsin.htm. The article is titled *Republican Redemption* by George Neumayr. So hot has this become, that McGraw issued a statement saying these were his own views and should not be confused with the “priorities of the CRP.”...

...Regardless, the insurgents have formed a partial slate, shown here side-by-side with the CRP slate. More names may be added to the slate later on:

	<u>CRP-backed</u>	<u>Insurgent</u>
Chair	John McGraw	Nicholas Bavaro
Vice Chair	Shawn Steel	Brooks Firestone
Treasurer	Michael Der Manouel	(no candidate yet)
Vice Chair/No.	Bill Back	Jody Stevens
Vice Chair/Cen.	Cliff Unruh	Patty Hollingsworth
Vice Chair/So.	Celeste Greig	Dr. Asha Knott
Secretary	Gerry Snyder	Haydee Tillotson
1 st Asst. Sec.	Greg Hardcastle	Pam Corradi

...Who are these insurgents and what do they want? The best known name is that of former Assemblyman Brooks Firestone of Santa Barbara, who now leads the Lincoln Club in that area. Bavaro is a former CRP regional vice chair. Stevens is a Lincoln Club member from No. Calif., while Hollingsworth is a Turlock businesswoman. Corradi is the chair of the 43rd AD Central Cmt. and is a treasurer of the CA Congress of Republicans. Tillotson is an Orange Co. businesswoman who ran for the Assembly. The basic agenda of the insurgents is to remove the anti-abortion plank from the CRP’s platform. That’s easier said than done...

...FYI: Up to this point, the powerful fundraising arm for Calif. Republicans, the Lincoln Clubs, have stayed out of the political infighting. But will that continue? Sources say a growing number of Lincoln Club members are tired of the hardline conservative leadership of the CRP and want the CA GOP to focus on economic issues --- not *social issues*. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000. MARCH 7th STATE ASSEMBLY PRIMARIES.

Editor’s note: Here is Part II of our *Campaign 2000* primary preview. Unlike the CA State Senate, there doesn’t seem to be as much activity yet for Assembly contests – but that should change very soon. Here’s our report...

☒ ***Term Limit Blues*** – Believe it or not, there are at least 3 State Senators who are *termed out* of the upper house, but plan to seek election to the Assembly. The 3 are: Tim Leslie(R), running for Rico Oller’s 4th AD; Dave Kelley(R), running for Jim Battin’s 80th AD; and Tom Hayden(D), looking seriously at Sheila Kuehl’s 41st AD. Hayden may have some competition from P/A exec. Tom Soto, son of Assemblywoman Nell Soto, but that’s not set in cement just yet. Comment: *per diem* is like an addictive drug -- some legislators just can’t break the habit...

☒ ***Hot Regional Primaries*** – If you’re looking for a couple of areas where there will be some very hot and perhaps bloody primaries, look no further than San Diego and Orange Counties. Lots of OPEN seats in both places – mostly GOP seats. We’re obviously not going to list all of the hot primaries in this issue, but will monitor & update the situation as new developments are announced...

GOP Primary Wars

● **67th AD** – This will be the open seat of GOP Assemblyman Scott Baugh of Huntington Beach. Two names have surfaced: former GOP Assemblyman Dennis Brown, who represented a portion of this district years ago and is a close ally of State Sen. John Lewis; and Jim Righeimer, one of the co-authors of Prop. 226 and a close ally of U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher. Brown has hired Gilliard-Blanning & Assoc. No word yet about Righeimer’s consultant. Both of these guys are *very conservative* and so we’re expecting at least one moderate in this primary. Odds are this primary will get nasty...

● **70th AD** – This is the seat of Assemblywoman Marilyn Brewer, who will be *termed out*. Two GOP rivals are looking: auto dealer John Campbell and Irvine Mayor Christina Shea. Campbell has hired Gilliard Blanning to run his effort...

● **74th AD** – This is Howard Kaloogian's district and there are at least 4 local GOP types running: Vista Councilman Ed Estes Jr.; Escondido Mayor Lori Pfeiler; Del Mar Councilman Andy Schooler; and Encinitas Councilman James Bond...

Demo Primary Battles

● **42nd AD** – This West L.A. district now represented by Wally Knox(D) has at least 5 solid contenders in various stages of preparing a campaign, plus sources think there will be other Demos who jump in as well. Among the Demos who are running are: West Hollywood Councilmembers Steve Martin and Paul Koretz; attorney Amanda F. Susskind; L.A. Community College Trustee Kelly Candaele; and Dr. Daniel Stone. FYI: Koretz campaign mgr. Dennis Orfirer reports that his candidate raised \$129,777 in '98 and had COH of \$117,447...

● **6th AD** – Assemblywoman Kerry Mazzoni is term-ed out in 2000 and already there is a long list of Demos lining up to run. Among the well known names being mentioned are: Marin Co. Sup. Hal Brown, who ran for IC and got mashed in the primary; environmental activist Joe Nation; San Rafael Councilwoman Barbara Heller; Cotati Councilman Richard Cullinen Jr.; Petaluma Councilwoman Pam Torliatt; AND Doug Boxer, a govt. relations consultant and the son of U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer. Although he's now living in Santa Monica, Boxer tells **Calpeek** he'll make a decision soon about moving home to Marin Co. Very interesting. More updates next week. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '99: EARLY SPRING MUNI ELECTIONS.

Editor's note: Here is Part III in our continuing series of reports about early Spring municipal elections...

☒ **Sacto Co. Bd. of Supes Special** – Sacto car dealer and businessman Roger Niello was the winner of a Feb. 2nd special election to replace Dave Cox, who in November was elected to the State Assembly. Cox had two years remaining on his term in the 4th District. Niello got 55.3% of the vote. His nearest rival was Tom Aceituno, who got 26.4%. A nice win for McNally Temple & Assoc....

☒ **Carson** – Perhaps one of the more interesting elections is taking place in this city of 84,991. Why?

Because Carson is in the midst of a huge battle with the *New Coliseum* to win an NFL franchise for the L.A. market. And you guessed it, the council's approval, without a public vote, on a \$180 million bond to assist deal maker and super agent Michael Ovitz and his NFL investment group, is a key issue in the MAYOR's race, which pits current Mayor Pete Fajardo against former Mayor Michael Mitoma, who served as Carson's chief executive from 1991-97. Mitoma doesn't necessarily oppose the Ovitz plan, but feels there has to be a public vote on the bonds. James H. Peoples is also running in the Mar. 2nd election for mayor...

... There are 8 candidates running for two open council seats. Incumbents not seeking reelection are Mary Anne O'Neal, who supported the bond deal; and Lorelie S. Olaes, who abstained from the vote...

☒ **Glendale** – This is L.A. Co.'s 3rd largest city with 195,623 residents. Two veteran councilmembers won't seek reelection: Eileen Givens and Larry Zarian. The early spin was that former Mayor Robert Garcin would be a slam dunk, but he pulled the plug and dropped out. So it's really a guessing game about the remaining 14 candidates, but sources think businessman and Parks Comm. Larry Miller, Bd. of Zoning Adjustments member Bob Yousefian, CPA & Glendale CofC Bd. member Rafi Manokian, realtor Joe Mandokey and perhaps Deputy AG Gus Gomez – might be considered in the top tier. In the 2nd tier are homeowner activist Mike Smith and perennial candidates Dave Wallis and John Beach. The election is April 6th...

CAMPAIGN '99: REILLY HIRES ELECTION TEAM.

Editor's note: Former Demo political consultant turned realtor Clint Reilly has taken the first step toward a formal announcement that he will challenge S.F. Mayor Willie Brown Jr. this coming November. Here's our update, with some new polling data...

... Reilly's campaign team includes manager Jim Stearns (and his firm of Stearns & Douglas will do the mail & tv as well); Ace Smith will handle strategy & research; Marianne Gaddy, who was Willie's fundraiser, will do the same for Clint; Tom Pier (late of the Michela Alioto campaign) will be the communications director; and Paul Maslin of Fairbank Maslin Maullin will handle polling. Overall, it's a veteran team, but you sort of get the feeling that Clint himself will be calling many of the

key shots...

...New polling data. the S.F.-based p/a and campaign consulting firm of Solem & Assoc. conducted a poll of 600 voters via telephone between Jan. 26-28 (5% margin of error). Brown, Reilly, Co. Bd. of Supes Chair Tom Ammiano, and former Mayor Frank Jordan were the candidates who were listed. Here are the results:

Brown	32%
Reilly	5%
Ammiano	18%
Jordan	13%
Don't know	32%

...FYI: According to the *S.F. Chron's* Matier & Ross, Maslin did a poll not long ago and it also showed Brown with 32%. But it also showed 42% saying they would NOT vote for Brown. This is important to remember because since Dianne Feinstein left the mayor's job, there has *not* been a two-term mayor (Art Agnos defeated by Jordan, Jordan defeated by Brown). Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are few items, political and otherwise, worth noting...

■ ***High Speed Rail in Calif.?*** – How about taking a bullet train from San Diego to Sacramento along a 670-mile rail link? The CA High Speed Rail Authority is working on such a plan, which has two parts: 1) a business plan; and 2) financial plan. A draft piece of legislation is due in September, with a final draft in December. If all goes well, the final draft will be submitted to the CA Legislature in January of 2000. Cost will be about **\$20-23 billion** for a bullet train and about **\$27-30 billion** for a maglev train. And of course it would have to be put on the ballot, probably in November of 2000, if OKed by the CA Legislature...

■ ***L.A. Attorneys for Picked for U.S. Judges*** – U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer(D-CA) has nominated labor attorney Dolly M. Gee and campaign law attorney Fredric D. Woocher to Federal bench. Woocher is a partner in Strumwasser & Woocher, a Santa Monica based firm which specializes in campaign and election law...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We've got tons of these items in our computer bank...

● Attorney Steven S. Lucas as been named a partner at Nielsen, Merksamer et al in Sacto. And Lucas was named chair of the Bipartisan Commission on the Political Reform Act of '74 by former Gov. Wilson...

● Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante(D) has hired the Sacto BEE's Deputy Capitol Bureau Chief Phil Garcia as his director of communications...

● Brian Rix & Assoc. has been rehired by L.A. Co. Sheriff Lee Baca to help erase his '98 campaign deficit and to raise funds for his officeholder account...

● Mackenzie Niles has been hired as an analyst in S.F. office of Dresner, Wickers & Associates...

● Newest member of the S.F. Co. Bd. of Supes is attorney Alicia Becerril, who was sworn in Jan. 23 to replace Jose Medina, now head of CalTrans. Becerril is Mayor Willie Brown's 6th appointee to the Board...

● Eric Rose has been hired as a VP of Public Affairs in the L.A. office of Fleishman-Hillard. Rose was a key deputy to L.A. Councilwoman Laura Chick...

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